

Council seeks views on air quality review

Reading Borough Council has requested that residents contact the council with their views on the findings of a recent air quality review.

The review, which local authorities are required to conduct on a regular basis, found that a number of areas near busy roads in Reading exceed the annual air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide.

The council insists that air quality in Reading is, in general, very good and pollution levels are dropping.

However, by regularly reviewing the air quality, the council is able to pinpoint any areas where the objectives are not being met and can then draw up an action plan to show what steps will be taken to improve the air quality in those areas.

John Howarth, lead councillor for transport and strategic planning, commented: "While monitoring air quality is important, improving air quality will largely depend on successful transport policies which improve public transport and reduce congestion."

Mr Howarth said that there had been a number of successes in Reading and added: "This new approach will give us wider information against which future policies can be measured."

As well as encouraging opinions from members of the public, the council is also seeking comments from Defra, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency and other public bodies.



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